

Serial No. 10/531,766

Amendment to Office Action dated October 17, 2006

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REMARKS

The foregoing amendment amends Claims 1 and 7-12. Claims 1-13 are pending in the application, with Claims 1 and 5 being independent claims.

Yasumura Does Not Describe the Invention of Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13

The Office Action rejected Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yasumura (U.S. Patent No. 6,320,765). The foregoing amendment to Claim 1 clarifies that the control circuit generates a frequency control signal which reduces the switching frequency in accordance with a value of the error voltage signal when a value of the error voltage signal generated by the error voltage generation means reaches a first threshold indicative of light load conditions. This aspect of the control signal is described in the specification. See e.g. page 12, line 19-page 13, line 28 and Figs. 6 and 8.

Yasumura describes a main switching element, Q1, and an auxiliary switching element, Q2. The on-times of the switching elements, TON1 and TON2, vary while the switching frequency, f_s , is maintained at a fixed value. Column 14, lines 14-29. In contrast, Claim 1 requires that the switching frequency is reduced in accordance with the value of the error voltage signal. Yasumura does not describe the invention of Claim 1 since Yasumura only describes a fixed switching frequency, whereas Claim 1 requires a variable switching frequency.

Claims 2-4, 7-10 and 13 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable at least for the same reasons as Claim 1.

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Examiner's Objections

The Examiner objected to the title alleging that it was not descriptive and to Claims 7-12 for certain informalities. The foregoing amendment amends the title and Claims 7-12 to provide a more descriptive title and to address the informalities.

The Examiner also objected to Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The foregoing amendment amends Claim 5 to independent form. Claims 6, 11 and 12 depend from Claim 5 so that Claims 5, 6, 11 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a complete response to the Office Action identified above. This application should now be in condition for allowance, and the Applicants solicit a notice to that effect. If there are any issues that can be addressed via telephone, the Examiner is asked to contact the undersigned at 404-685-6799.

Respectfully submitted,



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Docket No. 44471/314790